GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1652
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2016
Know India Programme
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Yadav Shri Om Prakash

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of Know India Programme;

(b) whether the number of participants under the above programme has come down over the last few years;

(c) if so, the details and reasons therefor during the last three years; and

(d) the manner in which the Ministry is planning to improve the programme for Indians abroad?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) Know India Programme (KIP) was launched by the Ministry to enable engagement with young Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in the age group of 18-26 years. Through a 21 day tour of India, KIP reconnects the young Persons of Indian Origin (PIO's) to their country of origin and gives them an overview of India's history, culture, cuisine and also various facets of contemporary India.

(b) & (c) The details of the programmes held and the number of participants during the last three years are as under:

Sl.No Year No. of Programmes No. of Participants
1 2013-14 04 132
2. 2014-15 05 151
3. 2015-16 02 70

The number of KIP participants reduced in 2015-16 as the programme was under review and only two editions were organized.

(d) Following a review, several steps have been taken to improve the KIP. From 2016-17, the number of KIP participants has been enhanced to 240 per year by increasing the number of KIPs to 6. The duration of the programme has been enhanced from 21 days to 25 days. The age limit for KIP participants was revised from 18 to 26 years to 18 to 30 years. The State leg of the Programme has been increased from 7 to 10 days to give participants an exposure to our regional diversity and to specific States. Ministry is working with State Governments by making them partners for the KIPs, and organizing the State leg in close coordination with the State Government.